

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /064 W

-----006241 210548Z /13

R 201610Z JUN 78

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6473

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY GUATELAMA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 615

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CU, BH, JM

SUBJECT: CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN BELIZE

1. EVENING OF JUNE 19, TULIO MARTINEZ DEPUTY AT GUATEMALA CONSULATE GENERAL HERE VISITED HOME OF E/C OFFICER WALSH AND IN VERY SHORT MEETING LEFT BEHIND THREE DOCUMENTS WHICH HE SAID HE WAS BRINGING AT REQUEST OF COLONEL PABLO NUELA, CONSUL GENERAL. THE THREE ARE 1) PHOTO COPY OF UK AIDE MEMOIRE SENT FROM BRITISH CONSULATE TO MOFA, GUATEMALA CITY, DATED 6 JUNE AND REGARDING ALLEGED BUILD UP OF BRITISH FORCES HERE 2) A PHOTO COPY OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN UNCLASSIFIED PRESS RELEASE OFF A TELETYPE MACHINE, PROBABLY-FROM TEXT AND WORDING-BRITISH, DESCRIBING THE ARRIVAL OF THE GURKHA'S IN JULY, AND 3) A PHOTO COPY OF A SECRET GUATEMALA DOCUMENT, BEARING DATE LINE GUATEMALA CITY, JUNE 16.

2. DOCUMENT NO. 3 IS ONLY ONE OF ANY PARTICULAR INTEREST. IT PURPORTS TO BE AN INTELLIGENCE REPORT ABOUT CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN BELIZE. TRANSLATION SHOWS FOLLOWING: SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1978 AT 0730, CUBAN DC-4, REGISTRY CMBC ARRIVED BELMOPAN CARRYING VARIOUS MEMBERS CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, INCLUDING MANUEL PINEIRO, OF COUNCIL OF STATE ACFT CAME FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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JAMAICA. SAME AFCT MAY HAVE BROUGHT CUBAN FONMIN ISIDORO MALMIERCA DURING HOLY WEEK. ON MARCH 22, 24 PERSONS DE-PLANED IN BELMOPAN; THEY ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN BELIZEANS IN TRAINING AT INFANTRY SCHOOL IN HOLGUIN, ORIENTE PROVINCE. ANOTHER 20 ARE REPORTED AT SAME PLACE NOW. DOCUMENT GOES ON TO SAY THAT DURING THIS YEAR, THE FOLLOWING CUBANS HAVE VISITED BELIZE: GENERAL OF THE ARMY GUILLERMO GARCIA, COMMANDANT OF

MILITARY DIST. OF HAVANA; DR. QUINTIN PINO MACHADO; MRS. HAYDEE SANTIMIA DE HARTH, WIFE OF MINISTER OF ED., DR. ARMANDO HARTH DAVALOS AND "UN OFFICIALS WHO WORK WITH THE CUBAN DELEGATION TO THAT ORGANIZATION" (SIC).

3. COMMENT: WITH ALL THOSE CUBANS AROUND, YOU OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO SMELL CIGAR SMOKE. WE-AND TULIO-ARE A GOOD BIT SCEPTICAL ABOUT THIS REPORT. A DC-4 WOULD HAVE TO BE IN PRETTY BAD STRAIGHTS TO LAND AT BELMOPAN AIRSTRIP WHICH IS SMALL AND LACKING IN FACILITIES. SUCH A LANDING COULD HARDLY GO UNNOTICED, LET ALONE A SERIES OF LANDINGS. IT IS INCREDIBLE TO US THAT THE UDP HAS NOT HEARD OF-AND BLASTED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THEIR PAPER-REPORTS OF THIS. GOV. MCENTEE HAS MADE NO REFERENCE TO US OF THESE LANDINGS, AND WE ARE QUITE CERTAIN HE WOULD WANT TO SAY, "I TOLD YOU SO."
4 COPIES POUCHED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BELIZE00615
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780258-0047
Format: TEL
From: BELIZE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780642/aaaabjwu.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b263c785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2291325
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN BELIZE
TAGS: PINS, CU, BH, JM, GT, (MARTINEZ, TULIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b263c785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014